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CONGRESSMAN JACKSON CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

OF WOMEN GAINING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Calls for Constitutional Amendment to Guarantee Equal Protection for Women

Chicago, IL - Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today called on all Americans to celebrate the 90th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, which occurs on August 26. He also reiterated his call for a constitutional amendment that would prevent discrimination on the basis of sex.

“Securing the right to vote for women was an important step on the long march toward justice

and equality," said Congressman Jackson. "We should all celebrate the heroism of Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and the multitude of unnamed women who worked with them to secure the right to vote for America's women.

"But the right to vote alone does not provide fundamental equality for women. I have proposed a constitutional amendment that would specifically guarantee equality of rights under the law to women. Until the Constitution is amended to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sex discrimination can be legally treated as justified or unimportant and laws can continue to privilege men overtly or by disparate impact.

"While today is a day to celebrate the victories of the past, it is also a day to recommit to the work that is yet to be done," Congressman Jackson concluded.

Representative Jackson's proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal protection for women was introduced in the 111th Congress on March 3, 2009 as H.J. Res. 31. More information can be found at www.jackson.house.gov under "Issues and Legislation," or at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>